

## **GRADUATION DAY CEREMONY**

**Milan, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2013**

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## **Master in International Relations**

By Natalya Korlotyan

Dear Professors. Dear Colleagues.

Dear Parents. Dear Friends.

On behalf of my course, the Master in International Relations, I am honored to give this speech. After my bachelor graduation, I was not sure of which career to pursue, having the aspiration to work in International Organizations, but not knowing even from where to begin. I subscribed to this Master hoping that it will provide me knowledge, confidence and guidelines for realizing my dreams.

And this is exactly what happened. ASERI changed completely my future perspectives and offered me incredible possibilities.

First of all, what makes this Master unique is the quality of the teaching. Among our professors we can count some of the world best professors but also professionals from Italian Companies and International Organizations. They taught us the academic theory and moreover how to face life and how to develop our careers. I find it extremely important that our professors could give us also an overview of the professional world and advices on the best possibilities.

To be future leaders, it is required knowledge, discipline, ambition and commitment. And this is what ASERI teaches. Our way through this Master was not easy at all, but was made of many sleepless nights, efforts and sacrifices because of an intense agenda with courses, presentations and sessions of exams.

Thank you to all the professors, for making us better students, better professionals and so, better people.

Another strong point of the Master is the internship that allows the students to have a work experience because you will probably not know if your chosen career field is right for you until you have worked in the actual setting and gained some experience.

Thanks to ASERI, I am currently doing my internship at SACE in Rome and I could not be happier of this chance. My special gratitude goes to Dr. Raoul Ascari, COO of SACE and our Professor during the Master, for the opportunity to work in such a prestigious and international company. My internship has evolved in an aspiration and pursuit for a future career in SACE's abroad offices.

I am very grateful to all the staff working here which showed us kindness, availability and encouragement: to Ms. Elisa Creperio, of whose patience we all abused but she was always available and kind; to professor Zoboli, our Master Director for encouraging us when we were desperate about our internships; and to Nadia, to whom we always addressed the most bizarre requests about administrative matters.

All of you contributed a lot to our growth and success, the fact that a limited number of participants is accepted to the Master allows every single student to be followed and taken care of.

As last but not least thank you to my colleagues for making this year special. The fact that we come from different parts of the world with different backgrounds and experiences made this course not only a school of knowledge, but also a human experience. It was a pleasure to meet

you all. A special thought goes to our colleague Iryn Dawa who unfortunately could not be here today to celebrate with us.

Unfortunately our educational path in ASERI finishes today and we have to start a new challenging experience by entering the professional world. This is a particularly difficult moment for Italy and for other countries, with high rates of youth unemployment as consequence of the global economic crisis, but nothing is impossible. We have the knowledge and the skills; if we will work hard we will achieve our goals.

I would like to conclude wishing all of you great success and rewards in the future career and personal life. The Master in International Relations opened us the gates to success, now it is only up to us to make our dreams come true.

Thank you for your attention.

Congratulations my dear friends! We made it!

## Master in International Cooperation and Development

By Beruk Mengestu Abraha

Honorable Director,  
Professors,  
Fellow Graduates  
Dear Families and Friends,

It's an honor for me Today to stand here, in front of you, to share my experience of what has been an unforgettable year. Since the beginning of this year, I travelled around the world. Through the bond built among our classmates, I experienced the culture and ways of life of many countries. This journey took me from Palestine to Canada, from Honduras to Armenia, from Serbia to Uganda and much more. In some cases this virtual world travelling turned into a reality and I have had the privilege of being welcomed in your families and homes around Europe.

I am grateful to the times we passed stressing on group work and other assignments mainly because these were usually followed by celebratory aperitivos and one or two glasses of wine. These are the traditions that brought us closer and we got to know one another very well. As we say goodbye to the fast paced life of ASERI, I have no doubt that we are NOT saying goodbye to each other rather 'see you in a few'. We have become a family, You are, now, part of my family. I will miss the captivating lectures of most of the faculty members such as those of Prof. Redaelli that left us talking and arguing long after the end of the lessons, the various guest lecturers and live testimonials of the situation in Afghanistan of Prof Lombardi's class were for most of us unforgettable and highly motivating. Then Prof Rossi's food for thought forced us to challenge our own biases. Prof Dembinski introduced me to the complexities of the financial world, which for me is still a labyrinth worth only venturing at one's own risk.

I truly enjoyed the wide array of topics that we covered in this program. It sits rather well with my philosophy on life, which can be summed up by the following quote of Ms. Maya Angelou  
*"When you know better you do better."*  
It has been a real pleasure being challenged by the members of the faculty and I'd like to take this moment to thank you all on every one's behalf.

Even though we passed quite a difficult time applying left and right for the ideal internship while dealing with our academic obligations, I am proud of how well we all did in the end. For the past four to five months we parted ways and conquered the world: Israel, Chile, India, Tanzania, Nicaragua... list goes on. Even though I did not venture too far from our base here in Milan, my four months stay in Geneva with UNCTAD has been truly exiting. I was lucky enough to have closely worked with professionals that have spent years specializing on the developmental challenges of Least Developed Countries and Africa, or as I would like to call it: my mothership. Dear colleagues, one thing that I can tell you from my experience in Geneva, is that if I can make it for four months in one of the top ten most expensive cities in the world without being paid, I'd say that our future is quite promising.

Please allow me to say a few words on the people who mean the most to me: My family. I wish they were here with us Today. I recently learned a saying in Arabic that I believe is one of the most beautiful sayings one can say about a person and it goes a little like this: *"Jazak Allah Kheir"* which

according to *wikipedia* it can loosely be translated as 'a mere Thank you is not enough for all that you have done for me'. So, dear Mom and Dad, I say to you “Jazak Allah Kheir”. A special thank you to my Sister who was the one that came up to me one Sunday morning and told me to apply for this Master program because she believed it suited me most. Thank you Brother, for having my back when I needed you.

Dear Graduates, Congratulations again on your achievements and I wish you all the success in your life. Be great as you all have greatness inside you, go out to the world and share that with whoever you can. I will leave you with the following quote from rebel Robert Nesta Marley:

*“The greatness of a man is not in how much wealth he acquires, but in his integrity and his ability to affect those around him positively.”*

አመሰግናለሁ Thank You.

## **Master in Economics and International Policies**

By Sofia Petruccelli

Dear Professors, dear Parents, dear Students,  
Good evening

We're here today to celebrate one of the most relevant days of our lives. Finding the right words is almost impossible in these situations, it seems like writing a short essay. But since all of us have just finished discussing our Dissertations, I'd prefer not to bore you with solemn words and clichés. I'll leave this commitment to our professors, who surely lead conversations about problems affecting our world much better than me.

So, we're here today to celebrate the end of a path but I'm not the first and surely not the last to tell you it's just the beginning of a new story. But I'm convinced it's right to be here thinking about what it was like and who we have become.

I remember the day I decided to apply for this Master. I just saw the application deadline was close enough not to have time to think about what I was doing. Yes, of course I took MEPIN into consideration but just like one of the possibilities for my studies. I completely fell in love with the program, the structure and the idea of studying in different Countries. Maybe I was just a little whistle-stop student dreaming too much, but I decided to apply, thinking I wouldn't have the chance to be accepted. I thought opportunity never knocks twice at any man's door, and I had nothing to lose. It's easy to understand how it went since I'm here today.

I'm not able to talk in everyone's name but I feel these Masters have first of all built new people beyond professionals. Enriched people, us, not students anymore but always people. Everyone has found colleagues, friends, disagreements and struggles which remain and teach more than every book. I accepted to take this speech because I feel grateful for the experience I conducted, because I really felt the need of saying thank you.

Thanks to our families, because they believed in us and permitted this moment to arrive. I feel I'm speaking in the name of many of us when I think about the sacrifices, even small ones, our families did to see our dreams come true. I will always remember my mother saying not to worry about money because a good future is priceless. Of course I will also remember every message of good luck before an exam and the countdown for every positive result.

Thanks to our Professors, who strengthened the prestige of this Graduate School through their competence. Coming from Master in Economics and international Policies, I'd like to extend my gratitude to the Professors of Università della Svizzera italiana. Their way of teaching has been a great incentive for us and a great example to follow in the working world.

Please let me say a special thanks to Vittoria Campagna. She has been an essential guide for all MEPIN students and I'm sure I'm speaking in everyone's name saying "Grazie, Vittoria". Unfortunately, I didn't have the opportunity to meet many resources who work in Università Cattolica, but I thank you all because you probably have been no less so. Thanks to all ASERI staff and to Nadia Moscato, because there was no question left without an answer.

One last but not less important thanks goes to ourselves. We just have to be proud of our results. No help, no teacher would have been useful without our determination. Even if I know just few

students here, I can understand how hard it has been to arrive at this moment. Everyone has overcome the most difficult exam, the most boring lesson, the hardest professor but finally we made it.

I beg your pardon if I'll be referring to MEPIN students but I want to say thanks to my colleagues, for being companions in the real sense of this word. It has been a long way, but our cooperation, our jokes, our evenings have made this Master easier and more exciting. I have so many memories of you that it's really hard to put them into words. I'm certain it'll be impossible for me to forget all the hours spent just trying to understand how quantum macroeconomics theory works. But I'm more certain it will be impossible to forget you at all.

Finally, just a little glance to the future. Our future is uncertain, questionable and even unfair. Everyone deserves to get the job he or she studied for and even us, but this historical period doesn't help. I know that escaping abroad seems the easiest solution, above all for Italian students, but this Country is ours too and it's time to stay and fight for changes.

Anyway, whatever your decisions will be, I'd like to end saying good luck to everyone.

Grazie